Dear Jerry, Oliver Stone and Rashomon 11/1/91

When we spoke this morning you referred to Anson's article on Oliver Stone and to Stone's use of the Rashomon approach in his movie "JFK." I then told you that was not in the original script. I then left to get a headlight replaced and thought a bit about this while waiting. I write instead of phoning to have a record.

Helen is copying all the Stone statements I have from various sources. When she finishes I'll classify them by subject. From recollection only, he did not make any reference to his offering the viewer any alternatives as solutions until about the time he started shooting in Dallas. That was two months after I wrote him, giving him chapter and verse on Garrison. I wrote him 2/8/91.

I therefore believe that as he considered the problem the truth about Garrison and his book created for the movie based on it, with all those millions involved, to say nothing of his reputation, he decided that the Rsahomon approach gave him an "out" short of junking the script and starting with a new one, jeopardizing Warner's $40,000,000 and his project.

My belief is that my 2/8/91 letter made him aware of this serious problem.

In thinking about this and all his boasting of all the new information he had added to what Garrison had, I ~~realized~~ remembered that Garrison's book's editor, Zachary Sklar, was coauthor of the script. In thinking about this and about Garrison having told the papers how fine a script it is I was reminded that none of this trio tumbled to a ludicrous sequence in the script, where some Cubans hold Ferrie's head into the toilet by his hair. Ferrie had not a single hair anywhere on his body. He had alopaecia totalis. My source was his doctor, who was my step-brother.

Moreover, I have this in Oswald in New Orleans. According to Stone's #research coordinator," Rusconi, this is Stone's favorite book and hers.

How Garrison could have missed this I cannot explain. He knew. He joked about Ferrie's home-made wigs and eyebrows. But at the very least, three people involved with the script had to know that Ferrie was hairless and it was in the script until Lardner's story appeared. I cannot say that Sklar knew. He should have if he knew anything at all about the subject. And he was script co-author.

Stone hired Hill & Knowlton for "damage control," according to the Post article, because he did not want the major media to believe he was nutty and taking liberties with the fact, "history" is the word his unnamed associate used. Stone the story says spent 36 hours at meals with the reporters and bureau chiefs. I think this makes a three-day period in DC a requisite, even if flying time is include, more if not. Now with his allegedly having to work almost around the clock every day to get the first print before 12/13 for the awards deadline and to have 800 in theaters by the 20th, I think this represents an extraordinary worry on Stone's part. If he suddenly worried what else was wrong like that Ferrie whopper and he remembered my letters, as I'm sure he does and will for some time, he decided he had to have a job done on the major media to forestall pre-showing interest by it. H